

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

meeting date: 24 AUGUST 2021
title: HEALTH FUNDING
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To confirm a CMT decision to undertake a three-year project for improving the health of workers in local businesses.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities
 - Community Objectives - To help make people’s lives healthier and safer.
 - Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Other Considerations – Economic recovery from the impacts of covid will be helped with a healthy workforce.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Active Lancashire, A.L., (formerly Lancashire Sport) is the strategic lead for Sport and Physical Activity in Lancashire. They work with local organisations and individuals to help bring about active lifestyles. A.L. are one of the many Sport England-led Active Partnerships that drive a sports delivery system across the country.
- 2.2 A.L. work in leading and facilitating effective partnerships across the county from key influential decision makers, through to community grass roots organisations aimed at encouraging Lancashire residents to engage in sport and physical activity and lead a happy, more prosperous life.
- 2.2 A.L. have received funding through Innovate UK, as part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) to help improve health in the workplace (Health Screening Project). This involves working with companies to provide work-based health assessments, allied to a programme of activities to help the physical and mental health of the working population. For Ribble Valley this could be worth around £100k over three years.
- 2.3 Active Lancashire have also secured funding from the European Social Fund (ESIF), for a scheme which aligns with the ISCF one, this is again work based and is a Workplace Health Champion Project. It is now widely recognised that employee well-being and productivity are inextricably linked. The funding potentially available for Ribble Valley from this source is up to £155k over three years.
- 2.4 It is known that from an economic perspective improving the health of the work force provides additional Gross Added Value (GVA). In Lancashire productivity across the County lags an average of 20% behind the rest of the UK, although specific district

figures are not available, anything that improves the picture locally will both benefit the individuals concerned and the business they work for.

- 2.5 A.L. and Uclan are leading on both projects under the broader initiative of Business Health Matters. There is widespread support across the County for this initiative, including the LEP, NHS and Chambers of Commerce, because of the value it can provide to employers and employees alike.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 For the ICSF project the Borough Council will need to apply and if successful sign a funding agreement which commits the Council to delivering the outcomes sought by the funder. Both ICSF and ESIF projects are being co-ordinated by Active Lancashire across the County.

- 3.2 The ESIF project had a tighter timescale, which required the Council to agree to a Collaboration Agreement in July for an intended start in September 2020. Therefore, the matter was discussed at CMT. CMT felt confident that the project is consistent with what the Council is trying to achieve so a decision was made to enter into an agreement with A.L. ahead of Committee being able to consider the project. To avoid the Council missing the funding opportunity presented, as the project was a fit with RVBC policies.

- 3.3 As part of the CMT decision it was determined that any decision to appoint staff would be subject to a further report back to CMT for their agreement on appointments being made. Because the grant provided from DWP is based on existing officer time as match funding (£197,267), there would not be a requirement to provide actual revenue budget from the Council for the project.

- 3.2 The ESIF project will involve the Council making up to 2 temporary fixed term appointments of staff to deliver the schemes at the point when the work involved in delivering the project is likely to exceed the existing capacity of current staff to deliver. The funding for these appointments will be secured from the match funding of in-kind officer support from existing Council staff who will be required to co-ordinate delivery locally in the Borough. That work is part of existing work schedules and is eligible under the ESIF programme for match funding. It will primarily involve the existing staff already employed in the Council's healthy lifestyles and weight management team. With some strategic work from senior officers in Cultural and Leisure services.

- 3.3 For the training and certification required, this would be sourced through local colleges in East Lancashire. Budget is available to cover this aspect.

- 3.3 Any new temporary posts that would be appointed will be subject to the Councils' standard recruitment process, including evaluation of the posts to agree a pay scale.

- 3.4 The accountable body for the projects is A.L., although for each project this Council will need to enter into a Collaborative Agreement with the funders and a Service Level Agreement with A.L. Both will need to be considered by our own solicitor to determine that the liabilities of doing so are satisfactory for the Council, prior to signing for and agreeing to the funding.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.

- Resources – The budget for the project does not require any additional expenditure from the Council because all the costs are covered by the grant provided by DWP based on the matching of existing officer time. A budget for the scheme is in the appendix.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council has signed up to the ESIF project due to the timescales involved. An application will need to be made for the ISCF project and a legal agreement entered into.
- Political – Economic development is a core element of the Council's corporate strategy and these projects if approved will help local businesses and employees.
- Reputation – Having a healthy workforce and an active population is good for all concerned and enhances the image of the Borough as a place to live and work.
- Equality & Diversity – incorporated into the principles of both projects.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Ratify the CMT decision to proceed with the ESIF project ahead of Committee being obtained due to timescales involved.
- 5.2 Agree that the Council apply to enter into agreement with the funding bodies for the ISCF subject to satisfactory legal agreements being reached.
- 5.2 Delegate authority to the Director of Community Services to sign the ISCF agreement.
- 5.3 Agree the Council providing officer time to manage the projects and appoint the necessary temporary staff for delivery.

Mark Beveridge
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

John Heap
Director of Community Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111

Appendix 1
ESIF Budget

	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	
Expenditure				
Staffing	24565	61413	69017	154995
Basic Skills training Certification	6310	6309	6309	18928
Courses	3300	3300	3300	9900
Equipment	2500	2400	2250	7150
Insurances	215	230	230	675
Travel/room hire	3000	5000	2000	10000
Potential				
redundancy costs	0	0	5000	5000
Operating costs	4000	5000	4000	13000
Contingency	4000	8000	5073	17073
Total Expenditure	47890	91652	97179	236721
Income				
New Staff Grant	51665	51665	51665	154995
Delivery grant	27242	27242	27242	
Total Income	78907	78907	78907	236721
Net	-31017	12745	18272	0

The Council will be providing existing staff resources worth £197,267 towards the scheme, in addition to the budget shown above.